

**TESTIMONY OF POSANDRA HIGGINS FOR THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**AGAINST**

**S.B. 1223 AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A CHILD  
CONVICTED AS DELINQUENT**

**And**

**IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL 6634 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD WELFARE AND DETENTION IN THE  
JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ERASURE OF JUVENILE RECORDS**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Posandra Higgins I'm a parent of a child who's involved in the juvenile justice system. I'm here to testify against Senate Bill 1223 which would require parents to pay for the cost of treatment and care for their delinquent child.

I'm a very involved parent in my child's life and in my community for many years. However until I became involved with AFCAMP I did not know about all of the information and services that I needed to be aware of in order to be more successful in raising my child. My son is not a criminal nor is he delinquent; he became involved in the system because of his mental health needs which was not being addressed appropriately by the schools, providers and DCF.

There are so many parents in our community trying to do the best they can for their children and are in need of help and support and don't know where to turn. Some have been involved in so many services that haven't worked. It's not that they don't want to be involved it's the frustration of many times having to leave your job to attend court and risk losing their jobs putting the whole family at risk. Many of these families are already faced with so much stress; living in poverty, some have their own disabilities and don't understand the system. This bill will only add an additional burden and stress to them when what they need is help and support.

In closing I want **to support raised bill 6634 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD WELFARE AND DETENTION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ERASURE OF JUVENILE RECORDS**. This bill will help Connecticut to continue to improve the juvenile system by reducing discrimination based on race and ethnicity in the juvenile justice system and stop the cycle to the adult system. This bill will also insure that children are kept in Connecticut rather than being sent out of state. I know what it's like, my son was sent out of state where he was treated badly and I had to fight DCF to bring him home. Although he's in a better placement he is still not home where I can visit him daily. This is an injustice to our Black and Latino children and families and only continues to make our lives more difficult.

I urge you to look closely at these two bills and to do the right thing for Connecticut children at risk or involved in the justice system.